are bulk loans which are utilised by the concerned State Government for various housing schemes all over the State.

(b) to (d) LIC disburses loans to the State Governments for housing sector on the basis of allocation made by the Planning Commission and demands received from the Housing Finance Societies of the State Governments.

Proper credit share to Tiny Industrial Sector

2262. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to earmark a proper share of credit to the tiny industrial sector within the priority sector lending by banks and public financial institutions in the country particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how Government have ensured strict compliance of these guidelines by banks and financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has prescribed a target for public sector banks to extent 40 per cent of their net bank credit as priority sector advances comprising various sectors including small scale industries (SSI) for country as whole. No separate state-wise taregts have been prescribed.

RBI in the credit policy for first half of 1997-98 has announced that out of funds available to all segments of the SSI sector, banks should ensure that 40 per cent will be made available for units with investment in plant and machinery upto Rs. 5 lakh, 20 per cent for units with investment between Rs. 5 lakh and Rs. 25 lakh and the remaining 40 per cent for other SSI units.

Investigations into the working of Foreign Exchange dealers

2263. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI YERA NARAYANASWAMY:
SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revenue intelligence agencies have launched country-wide investigations into the working of many foreign exchange dealers;

(b) if so, whether it has also come to the notice of Government that several foreign exchange dealers are involved in illegal withdrawal of foreign exchange worth crores of rupees using forged documents;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) steps taken by Government to curb the illegal activities of foreign exchange dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) During 1996-97 the Enforcement Directorate has initiated investigations against 11 authorised dealers/money changers in the cases relating to suspected violations of the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 (FERA).

(b) and (c) The Enforcement Directorate has taken up investigations relating to withdrawal of foreign exchange by some money changers/authorised dealers suspectedly